



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

Eric Melgren, U.S. Attorney

Contact: Jim Cross

(316) 269-6481

Headquarters

1200 Epic Center
301 N. Main
Wichita, Kansas 67202
(316)269-6481
FAX (316)269-6484

Topeka Office

444 Quincy
Topeka, Kansas 66683

Kansas City Office

500 State Avenue
Suite 360
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 12, 2005

CLAIMS PROCESSOR PLEADS GUILTY TO FALSIFYING MEDICARE RECORDS IN EFFORT TO EARN BONUSES

Topeka, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Melissa Cyr**, 24, Topeka, Kan., has pleaded guilty to making false statements relating to health care matters. She entered a plea Jan. 11, 2005, before U.S. District Judge Sam A. Crow in Topeka, Kan.

In her plea, Cyr admitted that she fraudulently received more than \$4,500 in bonuses by falsifying computer entries to Medicare records. Cyr was employed by Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Kansas as a Medicare Secondary Payor claims processor during the period from May 1998 to January 2004.

Blue Cross had a practice called the Employee Performance Incentive Program that paid quarterly bonuses to employees who exceeded quotas for the number of claims processed and yearly bonuses to employees for outstanding department performance. To save two to five minutes on each form she processed, Cyr changed a computer code to make Medicare the primary payor instead of the secondary payor. As a result, she received \$4,600 in bonuses to which she was not entitled.

Sentencing is set for 3 p.m. April 5, 2005. She faces a maximum penalty of five years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine. Melgren commended Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, which investigated the case and Assistant U.S. Attorney Tanya Treadway, who is prosecuting.